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WEST GERMANY: Some members of the government are evidently considering a limited treaty with East Germany if the negotiations on a general political treaty remain stalemated.

On 17 October, State Secretary Frank discussed with Allied ambassadors the possibility of an agreement that would not deal with basic political issues but would be limited to arrangements for practical improvements in East-West German relations. Although another member of the Foreign Office later downplayed Frank's remarks, he also admitted that the idea of a limited treaty has been discussed.

These comments reflect the seeming impasse in the Bahr-Kohl negotiations on a general political treaty. The East Germans continue to reject Bonn's demand that the treaty contain references to a "common German nation" and to the lack of a World War II peace treaty. In their talks earlier this month, Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko urged Bahr to conclude a treaty on the basis of what he had already achieved with Kohl. The East Germans, seemingly piqued by Bahr's attempt to go over their heads, stiffened their position in the negotiations immediately following Bahr's return from Moscow. The Bahr-Kohl talks scheduled for 24-25 October should indicate the GDR's intentions.

Given this lack of progress in negotiations, some Social Democratic Party (SPD) leaders, involved in a difficult election campaign, are probably tempted by the idea of a non-political treaty which could be billed as another success in Brandt's foreign policy. However, leaders of the Free Democratic Party--the SPD's coalition partner--have already indicated that they are not satisfied with Bahr's tactics and might oppose the idea of a limited treaty. Presumably because of likely Christian Democratic criticism and possible voter backlash, Interior Minister Genscher stated on 18 October that he "tended" to believe it would be better to have no treaty at all prior to the elections.

(continued)

A treaty devoid of major political content would likely be acceptable to Pankow if, as Frank has suggested, the West Germans agreed that it and a suitable Four-Power declaration would open the way for both states to enter the UN. In any event, Pankow would characterize a truncated treaty as further evidence of East Germany's equal status, and would cite it in attempts to obtain international recognition.

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NOTES

CHILE: New strikes on 20 October prolonged the standoff between the Allende government and its opponents, but the struggle may be entering a new phase. The opposition parties' joint statement blaming Allende for the situation and insisting that he must rectify it may be the prelude for congressional charges that he has violated the constitution. The Christian Democrats have not yet agreed to join in such charges, but they have not weakened their public refusal to seek negotiation. Armed leftist groups appear to be getting more impatient to take on their adversaries in the streets, but the increasingly broad role of the military in keeping the country going limits that possibility. The government's tactic of playing for time while taking selected economic reprisals and further extending the responsibilities of the armed services is still working to Allende's advantage. At the same time the ruling of the comptroller-general, [redacted]

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[redacted] that continued government-controlled national radiobroadcasting is unconstitutional will be a setback to the government. [redacted]

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